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115, a

Ms.A.9.2.31.9

Weymouth Sunday July 6.

My dear Anne, [1862]

After very long delay we learn, piece-meal, what you will probably have learnt all at once & almost as soon as we by way of the papers; — that the Army has met with disaster — owing to want of men. overpowered by numbers, seems to be the cry: — but we can know very little, for the Army Censor must of course keep off the wires, such a set of panic-terrors as can pass — come to bad purpose after Bull's Run. This time, there has been no rout — no panic — only change of position compelled upon us, with a loss of 15.000 men — the Enemy, a loss much greater, & his best General, Stonewall Jackson, reported killed. The Massachusetts

Regiments

are terribly cut up, but no particulars are yet allowed to transpire officially. - Young Sherman of Dedham is badly wounded, & Armory, Ellsworth of Boston also. The Mass 11th has lost 300 men left. The bravery of the troops was something truly worthy & consolatory. The Zouaves were "Abigunions" - say all the papers (which means that they were like St. Ignatius," on board every ship in the fleet at the same time). They rallied & led the men, fighting like American citizens & French princes under one. - But better than a French prince or an American citizen, is he who fights this battle for the World's advance. I am sorry to see ignorance & prejudice on all sides pervading as

they

but these are [illegible] circumstances for Americans, & the experience will be invaluable.

There are a lot of people for example so ignorant that they say — "now we shall have Kansas upon our hands, & of course England, — as she is so afraid of Kansas herself that she will go with Kansas at all risks." ask what makes them think so, & they say, "why now that the Princes have seen the defeat & danger that the Army are in, of course they will stir up Kansas to interfere." They actually think that the Princes are in power; or rather neither know nor think, but all contend "on the jump" to conclusions, from no premises at all. The assurance of the Eng. Ministry that Gregon & the other Secesh members had nothing to hope for seemed to encourage as many as it pacified, as for

I could judge. "Harpus Muckly" cuts the sharpest figure. I send you a copy. They do not seem know what to make of it to see the Ministry & John Stuart Mill acting together in their respective ways, on this matter & like poor Gillobury, all for setting up a sort of holy office, by which to try & hear each according to his merits. I can only say as when Lord Holdus used to try to explain to me the unregenerate state of Anti-Slavery non-Church-Members — "They are right on this one point — practically, — & for the rest I leave it to you to settle their accounts with doctrine & creed mongers." So I say of Mon- ar Anti & Lenaders, & persons not in the Church-Republican-universal. If they will keep their hands off, (thank) I spend my breath in talking things with bad hearts. I am not obliged to find bad motives for a good course. If this was only a single warfare, — a battle in the open field, — all around

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would be speedily settled. But it is of necessity slow, because they that are summoned to fight it out at war in their own minds. They who have renounced slavery in their own hearts, have yet a trial in acknowledging that this is a revolution, & cry "the union & constitution as they were in 1860." This makes the U.S. Capheas scarcely better to the world at large than the Rebels. Statesmen know better, for they notice such things as abolition in the D.C. & Terr.ies — But these outward & visible signs are not needed by Philosophers. They see in the conflict the assurance of victory, & they know the signs are sure to follow. It is most painful, certainly, to think how much blood must be shed while people are getting their eyes open & learning their lesson, but our life-time of Cabinet has proved that only a small minority are capable of learning in any other way than experimentally,

that slavery is irreconcileable with safety or success. It is just so with every thing else: such towns as these; towns of lighthouse flashes which throw the horizon at night so that men can set their bearings, are times in which to point out all collateral subjects — the things which pertain to slavery because they sustain it. And we cannot begin too early to put down wrongs & abuses & expose mistaken policy. I am daily engaged in observing the workings of a political despotism which would make of the world a stage for the play of infernal passions, instead of the scene of good will it might be. "Down with this or that nation!" says one. "It is an aristocratic, will combination against human rights: — a privileged class legislates in its own behalf:" & he turns to carry on at home a work of

Southern "Tuck & Dicker," by which he, having a rare acre of porcelain clay, or an iron-region, or money enough to set up the Pemberton Cotton Mills Company, - may be by law privileged to make his millions out of the people at large. This was not seen behind the blackness of slavery. But now it is seen; & it makes a part of the rage of the time, for it hinders the republican cat from taking her privilege of looking in the face of Kings: & one of the evil consequences of slavery, like the dregs of the measles, will exist in the taxation, better home because of the ignorant pathos of which the rich will take advantage, as they now do, only with a better chance, to make themselves richer by making their neighbors poorer, - & create a

class of privileged ones, while exclaiming against the oppressions of Europe we ought to be leading the way to a better state of things. Instead of which we are retrograding while the world is advancing. They are bent on shedding a burden which we are creating. "Live & let live" – is the motto of free people, or ought to be, – "that all the world may be at peace." "Snuffle ourselves" – is the bad motto – "that we may be always able to go to war." This last bad motto puts any nation adopting it as much in a state of quasi warfare with the rest of the world, as the man is in a town who refuses to receive shoes in exchange for a hat, a suit of linen, or a tun pot, but will make every thing himself. He loses more than the money he loses: – he loses the advantages of social intercourse & business intercourse: – he loses the good will of the world, – & finds out at last, that the first

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And greatest loss of all was the loss of his own feeling of Good will to the world. All this reasoning & feeling sprung up in my mind on hearing a pro-Slavery Patriot Toast against Europe. He foamed with hate: but not worse than I have heard Anti-Slavery patriots do. It is no part of my mission to defend Duchesses. I always reply to those sorts of persons, who always begin with a fling at the English Nobility with whom they suppose me to be in mind identified in future that I shall of course stand up for Humble classes: on the contrary: I have a testimony to bear against all class legislation every where. We must try to find out what is good for the whole world, & do it. We must not look every man on the things of himself, but also on the things of another: & let alone

Duchesses, I ask an Anti-Slavery Patriot if he does not feel his Spirit Kindled with the Lancashire & other Cotton Workers, Who are all this time distressed for food enough to keep Soul & body together; yet wasting, consoled in their suffering, while our War with the Slave-power — our conflict with the wrong that entangles the World's peace, is being carried slowly on, to its triumph.

They might compel Ministers to acts of bad foreign policy, to obtain temporary relief. "Madness!" is the American Patriot's reply: True: then why need the American Patriot fulfil Jeff. Davis' wishes & play with the hands of the "Times," by affirming with insulting taunts that Ministry & People, with only some four or five exceptions in the

Whole nations are bent on that very madness which Ministry & people both agree in keeping far from us. Discussion with vituperation, ("the sword of the spirit" as it is called) so excellent to harass to arouse apathy & awaken fighting, is not the appropriate weapon when every emotion but that of love & charity is at a white heat & the sword of the flesh is being sharpened. Then, facts & figures, — good deeds done & recommended, steady nerves while slaughter made inevitable by past mistake & delay, is now for us, — are the order of the day. Then, silence unless you know.

Lawson v. Shinwell, as the house in contrast with Bellsbury & Co. They mean well but they are like the Doctors who having no remedies but irritants exhibit them on all occasions, for the

sake of doing something, & trouble
us themselves.

But I must not use up
all my room in reasons, but say
a little for news: though there is no
need, because Bella so ably fills the
department. I had a note from
C. Follen last week, saying he was
off like a shot, for Port Royal.
I ran up to town, to see him
off. He was in good spirits, & in
hopes of doing great deed. Hunter
letter is published since then:
that way, if the Yankees be
thrashed back with the cotton
planting & cultivation folds
in a measure, by taking
the able-bodied men for the
army. I hope so — for our
defeat before Richmond comes
from not having drilled the blacks
a year ago. Ned. Phillips
writes that Hunter's order came
when the Beaufort District like
a Thunder clap. Pierce at it

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come Whack into his Throat
I may so call it; — & the
wailing & distress were terrible.
The Men thought they were go-
ing to be carried to Cuba by Yankees
after all, & the Women were
like Mad. Philbrick broke it to him
told them we were, all, black &
White, in a common peril & need,
& must all go, when Govt sent
& do what Govt said. So they went
off cheerfully, — & those that were
rejected as unfit for the Army, return-
ed in fine Spirits, & told such agreeable
things of Uniforms & Rations & Ar-
rangements & discipline, as happyfied
the rest. Philbrick had the misfor-
tune to lose one man: his Joke fellow
in the field Kills him in a fit of
rage. Philbrick read the funeral Ser-
vice, but recognised in himself more
but a Spiritual Power on that
occasion. They are all so tractable &
docile, that it would be a Shame
to hurt one to death for an accident

in heart & blood at such a time
as this. I am greatly struck with
the sound judgement these young
men exercise: Harassed as they
are by the Army & their
Govt cotton-agents (who are
constantly upsetting all their
plans for next year's crop, by
taking off the Cabins to haul
& drop last year's, — (an enormous
& able dashing now which might have
been avoided, at the outset,
our young men also the
cotton agents.) By the present
Law soon to expire by the
limitations of last year's Cotton,
a lot of pro-Slavery Land
Seekers, have all the horses & Car-
riages & furniture & conveniences
of the Plantations, while our
young men have to walk on
foot, & sleep in the Stand

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Abe Margey Davis to the
great detriment of their health
& loss of their dignity with
their charge. This last loss was to add
that Pulbrick wrote on to
Chase, and then wrote to
Boston to have somebody
that Knew him write to
Chase, certifying that he
had no love of horseflesh: but
that a horse with the bridles
& token of authority, he &
not the Cotton-agent, ought
to have the product of the
Plantations in that line.
Mary Ware's daughter Helen
is there, keeping school.
Wendell is preaching at the
Music Hall to-day. Mary sent
for me to come & hear
him, but I for the more

too late, & did not, besides, like to leave Ma & Annie while the rest were at N.Y. John Forbes found Charles a letter to General Saxton, the Military Chief of the District, Uncle Pierce, returned. also a revolver — a pocket spoon & fork — a complete set of eating tools, & in short, turned the house inside out for him. I am going to Mary Robbins, on Wednesday next, to pass the day. Annie Robbins will be there. They have had a sad loss of Mrs. Howe: She had the judicial faculty. If you have Dr Follen's life among the Books, you will find an extract about her, in it, at the time of Mrs Howe's death. I knew her first, just after that: — in 1829 I think. A letter from Mrs Putnam. James Lowell, her Nephew — (Charles's Son I suppose) who was as a son to her, especially since Willy's death was killed last week in battle: — Parents all resigned, calm, firm, — would do it over again.

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Every body is: — too much

So in one sense, as a general thing. It is like the resignation of the French Aristocracy: — shows a lack of strength to break the spell that binds them to the rack on which they are being broken. There is not yet boldness enough to cry "Freedom for all!"

Remember it to Schouler, that, at the 4th July city dinner, with the vile dog Wightman presiding, (who impudently & crackedly, & over the head of Andrew's good letter assumed the precedent that secessionism was defiant without the impulse of Freedom, — contradicted the cracking fellow Govt that men would not enlist under the States qua was pre-

seemed, I be alone, of all present some Anti-Nancy tooths. Andrew would not be present: went down to Portland to deliver an oration. I see in the papers that the Princes, in view of a Rotunda in N.Y. that there returns had some political bearing, & and the Brevoort House Man that it had not the least. Anne Wetton tells me she thinks it may have, however. That they may be returned lest their presence here should complicate matters by setting Louis Nap. against us. "Mesely" don't think that

very likely: for they would be glad, I should suppose, to draw him out. Nor would our Scots middle-water well its true emblem. send them back. I see no need of supposing any reason other than this, that they have done America & French Connection all the good they can; & mean to "live to fight another day." Ma'am Weston has all the newspapers read to her & bears the hot weather pretty well.

I see in the papers to day an order for all the Provincial Marine men to start forwith to a camp of instruction in Maryland. So little Henry Cowing must be off. Sarah says - "Francis says he wouldn't go:- 'd he cut to pieces first!" I must go & give him a little token of sympathy & thank him for his

a shame they should make him suffer. He must go, or be shot, & they ought to know them the time of talk has gone by. Nothing is changed since last year, only that this is more visibly a war of fuds than it was then. I have a letter from the Fred Wyshams. They cannot see that stones torn from the steps of the Capitol since the abolition in the District is not exactly the same thing as before that act. But then it was legal: now it is illegal: & we are plucking up spirit to execute the laws of the land. Maryland is going, in the course of the year, it is thought to emancipate. More than half the News Papers there already advocate it. Love to each & to all

Yours affectionate Mother, M.

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